(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the status of its implementation in the drought-prone State of Orissa to offset the adverse impact of the dry spell in this region?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Cloud seeding experiments in Research and Development mode conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune during the summer monsoon seasons revealed that moderate convergence at the cloud-base is essential for the cloud growth and development of precipitation. Another prerequisite is to have vertical cloud thickness of 1 km with liquid water content of minimum 0.5 gm/m-3. Although, the warm cloud modification is still largely at the 'research stage', some States such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc., have conducted cloud seeding experiments. In general, the positive effects were observed mainly when natural rain was in progress.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh did not launch any project jointly with Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Centre but they have conducted cloud seeding operations independently.

(c) Doesn't arise.

(d) Cloud seeding technology has not yet been implemented in the State of Orissa.

Pending scheme for Chhattisgarh

† 518. SHRISHREEGOPALVYAS:
SHRIVINAYKATIYAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCEAND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes of Chhattisgarh State lying pending with Centre; and

(b) what is the time schedule for their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A project entitled "Village Electrification by setting up Bio-diesel based D.G sets in 50 remote unelectrifted villages in Bodla Block, District Kabirdham of Chhattisgarh State" submitted by Chhattisgarh

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Biofuel Development Authority (CBDA), Govt, of Chhattisgarh. The proposal has been recommended for funding by the Expert Committee subject to matching sharing (50%) coming from the State Government. The CBDA is also required to provide details of technical improvements to be incorporated in the system and address the issue of sustainability of the system subsequent to project complition. The proposal can only be processed further after the above clarifications are received from CBDA.

Concessions to Bio-Tech Industry

519. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Bio-Tech Development policy offering major concessions to the Industry, and the details of amounts of concessions released as on date, Bio-Tech Industry-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of Bayh-Dole.Act of USA with regard to sharing the intellectual property generated through public-private Research and Development projects and whether by such Act our Government would benefit with regards to fast development of research in the field of Bio-Technology in India; and

(c) the reasons for delay in entering into Agreement with USA, to share the intellectual property with regard to Bio-Technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) There is no separate Bio-tech Development policy other than the Industrial policy. Major concessions allowed to the biotech industries are (i) exemption from the reuiremeht of compulsory licensing, (ii) foreign direct investment (FDI) permitted upto 100%, and (iii) 150% weighted deduction permitted on Income Tax against R & D expenditure, and (iv) concessions on customs duty forimport of equipment for biotech units registered with Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR).

(b) As per the Bayh Dole Act of USA, the universities and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) implementing R&D projects funded by Government Agencies have the option to retain title over the intellectual property generated through those projects, protect the inventions, commercialize the technologies generated and share the income arising